

I am in favor of dropping the CW requirement. Ham numbers have been static for 5 years, and the average age of hams has gone to 59. I am an active CW operator, and think the FCC should guarantee some bandwidth for CW at the low ends of the bands. I think with a large number of new hams, the congestion on voice will push the new hams down to the CW sub-bands on RTTY and PSK.

If we do not drop CW, then ham radio will die completely, in my opinion. I love CW, but after all, W9TO (the founder of the high-speed club called the Chicken Fat Operators, 45 WPM and up) has passed away. The last live meeting of the club was in 1992 (yes, I attended one year ago at Dayton).

At 56, I am one of the younger people on the 40 meter CW sub-band. We need to save ham radio, I will still operate CW, but the next generation will not.